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 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

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SUBJECT Preparations for Uranium Mining in the Region of Saalfeld

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1. Uranium prospecting and drilling in the region of Saalfeld were started more than a year ago and shafts were sunk. Dietrichshuette was the center of the mining; from June 1950 to March 1951, mining operations were also carried on at the Feengrotten near Garnsdorf, southwest of Saalfeld, but were discontinued because of unsatisfactory results.
2. The following is the translation of an excerpt from a letter received by Source from a friend living in Saalfeld:

"As we have said, Wismut has become quite big overnight in this county and in Rudolstadt. More and more rooms are requisitioned. A large number of officials are on their way to make wholesale requisition of everything they can find. The three forest villages* are to be evacuated, and now the whole influx comes through Saalfeld in such a way as an outsider can hardly imagine. Moreover, it is believed conditions will become still worse, since the influx keeps continuing at ever increasing rate, and we will have the same situation here as in the Erzgebirge."

3. The following is the translation of an excerpt from a letter received by Source on 25 June 1951 from a resident of Saalfeld:

"Much is going on here. The Aue administration has been dissolved, and everybody comes here to Saalfeld. Eight thousand persons have to be lodged. Fifty city employees have been put to work in order to procure housing wherever it is available. They were also in my residence, but I was not home, fortunately. Within 14 days, people who are fortunate enough to have living rooms, in addition to bedrooms and kitchen, must give them up. The entire city is full of indignation. The three villages of Braunsdorf, Burkardsdorf and Dietrichshuette are to disappear. Their peasants are to be evacuated to Mecklenburg for resettlement. The diggers have found many things in this region: gold, silver, copper and uranium."

4. The following information was contained in a letter received by Source on 12 August 1951 from a resident of Saalfeld:

a. According to an official of the Saalfeld housing office, evacuation

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measures now being taken there are part of a plan for uranium mining in the Saalfeld region. Mining activities there have been planned for a period of 25 years. Within the next two years, 20,000 uranium miners are to be housed in Saalfeld.

- b. Sagittarius Street in Saalfeld has now been entirely evacuated, the houses having been requisitioned for personnel to be engaged in uranium mining. Evacuation of Koerner and Uhland Streets is under way, and a distance of 400 meters on Sonneberg, south from its intersection with Kircher Street, will be evacuated shortly.
- c. Persons serving jail sentences in the Saalfeld region for criminal and political offenses have been offered the possibility of working as uranium miners for the duration of their sentences.

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* [REDACTED] Comment: The three forest villages are identified in paragraph 3 as Braunsdorf, Bunkersdorf and Dietrichshuette.

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